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## BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1964

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H. C. WEIR, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

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# **Boldon Urban District Council 1964**

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## **Chairman**

Councillor Mrs. M. Gibson.  
Vice-Chairman: Councillor O. Clark.

## **MEMBERS**

**Boldon Colliery Ward**  
Coun. Mrs. M A. Simpson  
(deceased 27/8/64).  
Coun. E. O. Telford  
(appointed 14/11/64).  
Coun. J. R. Pears.

**East Boldon Ward**  
Coun. H. M. Short.  
Coun. J. C. G. Durham.

**Whitburn Ward**  
Coun. S. Robinson.  
Coun. M. Hannah  
(deceased 4/12/64).  
Coun. R. H. Burdsall  
(appointed 23/1/65).  
Coun. L. Hannah.

## **CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson.

## **UNITED DISTRICTS OF JARROW, HEBBURN, FELLING AND BOLDON**

Coun. L. Hannah.  
Coun. E. O. Telford.

Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson.  
Coun. Mrs. H. L. Calvert.

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL No. 5 AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE**

Coun. Mrs. H. L. Calvert.  
Coun. Mrs. M. Gibson.

Coun. L. Hannah.

Telephone: Boldon 7241/2.

4  
Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
East Boldon,

April, 1965.

## PREFACE

### To the Chairman and Members of the Boldon Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, on the health of the Urban District and the work in the Health Department for the year 1964.

The Health Statistics are set out in detail in the body of the report; there are however, certain features on which I should like to comment.

The population of the Urban District rose during the year by 1,150 to 25,460; the natural increase i.e. excess of births over deaths, was 211. The birth rate showed a decrease to 18.8 per 1,000 population compared with 21.6 in 1963; the standardised birth rate (i.e. corrected for age and sex distribution of the population) was 17.2 compared with the national figure of 18.4.

The Infant Mortality Rate showed a decrease to 22.9 per 1,000 live births; this is in excess of the national figure of 20.0 for England and Wales. Of the 11 infant deaths, 8 were caused by Prematurity and Congenital Abnormalities, and there were no infant deaths from infection.

The death rate of 10.5 compares favourably with 1963 and the standardised death rate of 12.2 exceeded the 11.3 for England and Wales. Heart disease was again the principal cause of death; respiratory disease is also an important cause of death especially amongst men. The most common single cause of death was coronary disease which accounted for 36 male and 28 female deaths; this represents a decrease of approximately one fifth compared with the mortality from this cause during the previous year. There was a slight increase in the number of deaths from cancer, but the number of deaths from vascular disease of the nervous system (i.e. cerebral haemorrhage, 'strokes', etc.) showed a marked drop.

There was a very substantial decrease in the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year; this was mainly accounted for by the decrease in Measles notifications to 161 compared with 283 during the previous year. Further references to infectious disease will be found in Section F of the report.

This is the second Annual Report which I have the honour of presenting to you since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health in July 1963. I wish therefore, to conclude by expressing my most sincere appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from all members of the Council, Council Officials, and members of my staff in the Health Department.

H. C. WEIR,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

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#### **(a) GENERAL STATISTICS**

- Area of the district in acres—7,640.
- Estimated resident population—25,460.
- Number of inhabited houses—8,327.
- Number of Council houses—3,285.
- Number of Council houses erected during the year—192.
- Number of private houses erected during the year—90.
- Rateable Value at 31st December, 1964—£690,354.
- Sum represented by a penny rate—£2,809 9s. 3d

#### **(b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL**

##### **1. Description of the Area**

The Urban District covers an area of 7,640 acres and is essentially rural in character with more than 50 farms or other agricultural premises. It forms a green belt between South Tyneside and North Wearside and is roughly rectangular in shape extending inland from the North Sea coast for a distance of over six miles. In this setting there are the following five communities, Whitburn, Cleadon, East Boldon, West Boldon and Boldon Colliery; the last of these is largely industrial and accommodates approximately one third of the total population of the Urban District. The remainder of the Urban District is to a large extent residential and many of the inhabitants are employed outside the district.

##### **2. Employment**

Mr. T. H. Scott, Manager of the Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied the following information relating to employment, unemployment, and disablement.

#### **MAIN INDUSTRIES**

The Main industries (in order of highest number of working people first) are:—Coalmining, Building and Construction, Local Government (including Education and Police Services), Retail Distribution, Paint Manufacture, Hotels (including Public Houses), Agriculture, and Electrical Engineering.

There are 46 employers in the Urban District with 5,171 employees (4,630 males and 541 females).

## UNEMPLOYMENT

On the 7th December, 1964, the position was as follows:—

		Total on Register	Temporarily Stopped
Females	...	...	7
Males	...	...	93
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		100	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>

## DISABLEMENT

There are 151 males and 11 females on the register of disabled persons. There were 14 men unemployed.

All the above figures are in respect of persons over 18 years of age.

## (c) EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population estimated mid-year—25,160. 1963—24,310.

### Live Births

	M.	F.	1964 Total	1963 Total
Total	238	241	479	527
Legitimate	233	231	464	512
Illegitimate	5	10	15	15
Birth Rate			18.8	21.6
Comparability Factor			0.92	0.92
Standardised Birth Rate			17.2	19.9
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)			3.13	2.85

### Still Births

	M.	F.	1964 Total	1963 Total
Total	4	10	14	11
Legitimate	4	10	14	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—
Rate per thousand live and still births	...	...	28.3	20.8
Rate per thousand estimated resident population	...	...	0.54	0.45
Total live and still births			493	538

### Deaths

	M.	F.	1964 Total	1963 Total
All causes	134	134	268	268
Death Rate	...	...	10.5	11.0
Comparability Factor	...	...	1.17	1.17
Standardised Death Rate			12.2	12.9

	Principal Causes of Death			% of total deaths		% of total deaths	
	M.	F.	Total	1964	1963	1964	1963
Heart Disease							
(All Types) ...	47	35	82	81	30.5	30.2	
Cancer (All Types)	30	22	52	51	19.4	19.0	
Respiratory Disease	24	14	41	39	15.2	14.5	
Vascular Disease of Nervous System	6	26	32	42	11.9	15.6	

### Infant Mortality

	Deaths of infants under one year of age.			1964 Total	1963 Total
	M.	F.	Total		
Total ...	...	...	6	11	17
Legitimate ...	...	...	6	5	11
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—	1

	Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.			1964	1963
	M.	F.	Total		
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	22.9	22.9	32.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	...	23.7	23.7	31.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	...	—	—	66.7

	Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.			1964	1963
	M.	F.	Total		
Total ...	...	...	6	8	11
Legitimate ...	...	...	6	2	8
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—	—

### Neo-Natal Death Rate

(i.e. Infant Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)  
16.7

	Deaths of infants under one week			1964	1963
	M.	F.	Total		
Total ...	...	...	6	2	8
Legitimate ...	...	...	6	2	8
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—	—
Early Neo-natal mortality rate				16.7	20.8

### Causes of Infant Deaths

Congenital Malformations	4		
Accident ...	...	2	
Prematurity ...	...	4	
Unknown ...	...	1	
		11	
		1964	1963

Perinatal Mortality Rate ...	...	44.6	40.9
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			
Number of Deaths ...	...	—	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		—	1.89

### Comparison of Vital Statistics Rates

	England & Wales		Boldon	
	1964	1963	1964	1963
Standardised Birth Rate	18.4	18.2	17.2	19.9
Infant Mortality	...	20.0	20.9	22.9
Still Birth Rate	...	16.3	17.3	28.3
Standardised Death Rate	11.3	12.2	12.2	12.9

### CAUSES OF DEATH, 1964

			Comparison		
			Male	Female	Total
			+ —		
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	0	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	0	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	10	3	13	8
Malignant Neoplasm, lung bronchus	10	2	12	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	0	5	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	0	0	0	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	10	12	22	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	0	0	0	1
Diabetes	...	0	2	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	26	32	—	10
Coronary Disease, angina	...	36	28	64	10
Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	2	3	3
Other heart disease	...	10	5	15	6
Other circulatory disease	...	4	3	7	—
Influenza	...	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	...	9	12	21	3
Bronchitis	...	13	5	18	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	2	0	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	0	2	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	0	1	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	0	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	0	3	2
Congenital Malformations	...	3	1	4	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	0	0	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	6	16	22	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	5	1	6	4
All other accidents	...	5	6	11	3
Suicide	...	0	0	0	3
Total	...	134	134	268	+37 —37

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

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#### **(a) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

##### **Staff of Health Department:—**

Medical Officer of Health—

H. C. WEIR, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector—

R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Shorthand Typist—

MISS C. M. LUCAS.

Rodent Operator—  
P. JACKSON.

### **2. Laboratory Services**

Examinations are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Public Health Laboratory, Hylton Road, Sunderland. Results and number of bacteriological examinations for the year 1964 are as follows:—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Faeces and Urine	...	—	2
Milk	...	1	3
Corned Beef	...	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	6	8

### **3. National Assistance Act, 1948.**

**Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.**

One aged woman was removed under Court Order to a County Hostel as being in need of care and attention.

**Section 50—Burial or Cremation of Dead.**

No action was necessary during the year.

#### **(b) LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.**

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III, the Personal Health Services are provided by Durham County Council and administered through the Area Health Sub-Committee on which Boldon U.D.C. is represented by three members.

##### **Medical Examinations.**

The total number of Officials and Employees examined for Superannuation was 7.

The total number of Officials and Employees examined under the Sickness Pay Scheme who were off duty for 3 weeks or more was 12.

## CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)

### **Ante-Natal**

The following figures show the number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinics, and the number of visits which these mothers paid to the Clinics.

Numbers of Mothers	...	...	147
Attendances	...	...	511

### **Child Welfare**

Sessions: Alternate Mondays and Tuesday mornings at the Child Welfare Clinic, Boker Lane, East Boldon.

Alternate Monday mornings at the Barnes Institute, Whitburn.

Alternate Mondays at the Church Hall, Cleadon.

The following table shows the number of infants and toddlers who attended the Clinics and the number of attendances of these children throughout the year.

	No. of Children.			Attendances.		
	Under 1	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	Under 1	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.
Boldon Colliery	94	96	95	1,085	193	162
East Boldon	98	94	97	1,156	262	146
Cleadon	66	72	103	797	270	176
Whitburn	82	100	150	902	295	263

The Boldon Colliery Clinic is now no longer in operation.

### **MIDWIFERY**

(Section 23)

There are 2 County Midwives in Boldon. No midwives practice privately in the area.

During the year they attended 173 confinements, which represents 36% of all registered live and still births.

### **Domiciliary Confinements**

Doctor	Booked	Not Booked	Analgesia	
			Gas and Air	Pethidine
Present at delivery	126	—	52	81
Not present at delivery	47	2	38	37
Total	... 173	2	90	118

### **HOME NURSING**

(Section 25)

Two whole-time nurses were employed during the year.

	No. of Cases	Visits
Medical	282	10,113
Surgical	81	1,949
Tuberculosis	6	348
Maternal Complications	—	—
Infectious Disease	—	—
Others	—	91
Total	369	12,501

## HEALTH VISITING

Five Health Visitors serve the Urban District. The following domiciliary visits were paid during 1964.

Maternity and Child Welfare	...	...	9,061
Tuberculosis	...	...	213
Mental Deficiency	...	...	188
Schools	...	...	560
General Health	...	...	24
Old People	...	...	797
			<hr/>
			10,843

The percentage of ineffective visits made was 11.4%.

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### (Section 26)

The following tables give the number of children vaccinated and immunised at the clinics and by General Practitioners in the district.

### SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Under 1	Vaccination				Total	Re-Vaccination		
	1-4	5-14	15 and over	Total		1-14	15 and over	Total
39	157	4	2	202	6	16	22	

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

(given either singly or in combination)

Under 1	Primary Injections.				Reinforcing Injections.		
	1-4	5-15	Total		1-4	5-14	Total
126	221	139	486		93	492	585

### WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

(given either singly or in combination)

Under 1	Primary Injections.				Reinforcing Injections.		
	1-4	5-15	Total		1-4	5-14	Total
125	221	8	354		84	72	156

### TETANUS IMMUNISATION

(given with Diphtheria or Diphtheria/Whooping Cough)

Under 1	Primary Injections.				Reinforcing Injections.		
	1-4	5-15	Total		1-4	5-14	Total
126	225	148	499		93	147	240

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

### Primary Immunisation

Age Group	Number of persons who have received		
	Salk Vaccine	2 injections	Oral Vaccine 3 doses
Children born in 1964	...	1	1
Children born in 1963	...	3	35
Children born in 1962	...	5	22
Children born in 1961	...	8	2
Children and young persons born in years 1943-1960	...	6	14
Young persons born in years 1933-42	...	4	1
Others	...	5	2
Total	...	32	77

### Reinforcing Doses

Number of persons given third injections of Salk Vaccine	13
Number of persons given fourth injections of Salk Vaccine	6
Number of persons given a reinforcing dose of oral vaccine after:—	

2 Salk Doses	...	...	...	6
3 Salk Doses		)		
or 3 Oral Doses		)	...	43
or 2 Salk Doses plus		)		
2 Oral Doses		)		

### B.C.G. VACCINATION

Number of children skin tested	...	...	...	...	187
Number of children positive	...	...	...	...	18
Number of children negative	...	...	...	...	146
Number absent at time of reading	...	...	...	...	13

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

All requests for ambulance transport should be made to the Ambulance Control Centre, telephone Durham 3426.

### HEBBURN DEPOT

Journeys	Persons carried			Total	Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting			
10,464	5,457	31,736		37,193	191,744
	No. of Ambulances		10		
	No. of Drivers		30		

**PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE**  
 (Section 28)

Cases discharged from hospital and requiring after-care are treated by home nurses or supervised and advised by the Health Visitors. Sick room equipment such as urine bottles, bed pans, bed rests, air cushions, mattresses, and rubber sheeting can be had on loan.

During the year 47 persons received equipment on loan.

**DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE**  
 (Section 29)

No. of Home Helps employed during the year	...	...	62
No. of cases attended at 1.1.64	...	...	79
No. of new cases provided with home helps	...	...	54
No. of cases attended at 31.12.64	...	...	82

Type of Cases:—

Old Age Pensioners	...	...	...	...	...	111
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	11
					Total	133

**MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1959.**

No. of cases investigated	...	...	...	10
Admissions to Hospital:—				

1. Informal	...	...	...	3
2. Section 25 (Observation)	...	...	...	3
3. Section 26 (Treatment)	...	...	...	1
4. Section 29 (Emergency)	...	...	...	3
			Total	10

Mental Sub-Normality:

1. Under Supervision	...	...	...	53
2. In Hospitals	...	...	...	18
			Total	71

Children notified during the year as:—

1. Ineducable	...	...	...	3
2. Requiring supervision after leaving school	...	...	...	1
			Total	4

### (c) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The only Hospital situated in the Urban District is Boldon Hospital which caters for Geriatric and Chronic Sick cases; there are 10 female beds and 22 male beds. There are no direct admissions but only transfers from other hospitals, principally the General Hospital, Sunderland, following preliminary assessment.

### VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

The following numbers of patients were treated at the Sunderland, South Shields, and Newcastle Clinics during 1964.

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Non-Venereal	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Sunderland	—	—	—	—	1	5
South Shields	—	—	1	—	3	—
Newcastle	—	—	—	—	3	—
	—	—	1	—	7	5

### MASS X-RAY

No. 2 Mass Radiography Unit of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board visited South Tyneside.

The following table gives details of the work done by the Unit in the district:—

	Total No. of films	Total referred	Notified 'Active'	Not notified	Occasional Supervision
	Chest Clinic-Tuberculosis				
Public Session 24th/27th August					
Female	129	1	—	—	—
Male	217	3	—	1	1
Total	346	4	—	1	1

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Mr. G. Tait Hunter, the Regional Organiser, has kindly supplied details of the donor panels and the sessions in Boldon during the year.

Date of Sessions	No. of Donors attending		
18th February	...	...	106
18th August	...	...	105
Donor panel 31/12/64	...	...	191
New donors bled during 1964	...	...	7

### (d) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Urban District is served by six General Practitioners working from two single-handed and two partnership practices.

**SECTION C.****SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT**

---

To the Medical Officer of Health,

Sir,

No serious lapses of environmental hygiene standards occurred in Boldon Urban area during 1964.

The constant and considerable increase in population and legislation are having the effect of taking more and more time on day to day items thus preventing some branches of the duties being carried out as they should be. These points will be discussed at further length in my report, but some of the recent Acts make it inevitable that assistance must be provided to carry out the duties imposed on the Council.

My thanks are due to the members of the Council, and the Officials and Staff of all departments for their willing co-operation during the year.

R. W. ARMSTRONG.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The district is supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, who provided the following information:—

### **Analysis of Water Supply.**

(1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year 1964.

(2) Bacteriological examinations have been made during the year from the various deep wells and other sources which constitute the supply, also from reservoirs and consumer taps. The following results were obtained:—

	No. of Samples	% Free from Non-Faecal Organisms.	% Free from Faecal Organisms.
Wells and other sources (untreated)	1,251	99.0	94.5
Reservoirs	422	99.8	100
Consumer Taps	875	100	100

(3) The water has no detectable plumbo solvent action.

(4) There has been no contamination and therefore no action has been necessary.

(5) There are 7,672 domestic premises connected to the Company's mains in the area. There are no standpipes in the area.

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

2,453 yards of drain were examined during the year, nearly all being private dwellings built in the area, 1,131 yards less than in 1963.

The work is generally of good standard and mostly of standard glazed pipes. The amount of work carried out with pitch fibre has increased considerably and so far has been found to be satisfactory in every way, whilst several installations of plastic soil pipes have been carried out.

The sewerage of the district appears to be quite adequate. The untreated sewerage discharges to the sea and into the tidal waters of the River Tyne.

### **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION**

Little change has been made in the elimination of ash and chemical closets, the few remaining are in parts of the district where there are no sewers and the cost of installing septic tanks or cesspools would be high.

Estimated figures are:—

Type of Closet	1962	1963	1964
Ash Closets and Privy's	15	14	14
Water Closets	8,331	8,944	9,226
Chemical Closets	12	12	12

## **RIVERS AND STREAMS**

A Statutory Notice under Section 259 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was served on the owner of a piggery ordering him to stop the discharge of untreated drainage into a ditch, which he did. He also cleansed the contaminated part of the ditch.

## **SCHOOLS**

No complaints were received about the sanitary condition of schools in the district. Several schools were treated for the destruction of rats or mice with good results.

Water supplies in schools are all from service mains of the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and are satisfactory.

It was not necessary to take any special action in respect of infectious disease in school children.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on Sunderland Corporation Tip which is just outside the southern boundary of the district.

## **PIG FARMS**

There are about 10 commercial piggeries in the district, and conditions in some of them leave a great deal to be desired. Buildings erected by do-it-yourself enthusiasts to no recognisable plan with old second-hand materials are a blot on the landscape, often with no drainage system at all. It is astounding that animals reach maturity in some of the worst premises; only their isolated positions save them from prosecution under the Public Health Acts.

## **STABLES**

There is one farm in the area used as stables for a riding school ,it is well managed and kept clean.

## **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS**

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

## **CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

The reluctance of the Council to undertake the declaration of Clean Air areas is understandable in view of the shortage of cheap forms of fuel, particularly for open grates.

Perhaps a subsidy upon smokeless fuels would be a better means of securing the support of the public rather than a direct grant towards the installation of suitable stoves.

During the year one industrial firm discontinued the use of a coal fired boiler which was the subject of discussions with the Management.

## RAG FLOCK ACT, 1961

There are no registered premises within the Urban District at which upholstering or stuffing of flock filled articles is carried on.

## AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No statutory action has been found necessary under the sections enforceable by the Council, during the year.

## PET ANIMALS

There are no premises within the Urban District registered as a pet shop for the sale of pet animals.

## ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Three premises in the district are now used for the boarding of cats and dogs. All are privately owned, and the arrangements made seem to be reasonably good.

## PESTS ACT, 1949

The number of complaints of infestations increased considerably during the year, but only one major infestation at a piggery was found. A total of 283 inspections were made, and 266 premises were treated.

Private houses are treated without charge, but business premises have to pay the cost of treatment.

One man is employed part time on rodent control work, and I wish to record my appreciation of the way he carried out his duties during the year.

The table below is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other	Total	Agricultural
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ..	18	8426	269	8713	104
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1964 as a result of:—					
(a) Notification .. .. ..	1	177	24	202	—
(b) Survey or otherwise .. ..	8	69	1	78	2
(c) Otherwise .. .. ..	—	105	20	125	1
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats (Major) .. .. ..	—	—	—	—	1
(Minor)	9	171	20	200	2
Number of properties which were found to be infested by mice .. ..	—	61	5	66	—
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ..	9	232	25	266	—

## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

One complaint of noise was received during the year from a householder whose premises adjoined a Working Men's Club. He was advised of the Council's powers under this Act, and advice was also given to the Club Secretary.

## FACTORY ACT, 1961

199 visits were made to premises registered as factories in the district.

### PART 1 OF THE ACT

(1) Inspections for purposes as to health made by Public Health Inspector.

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	.. .. .. .. ..	2	28	— —
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	.. .. .. .. ..	39	98	— —
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	..	18	73	— —
Total	.. .. .. .. ..	59	199	— —

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted.
			—	—	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Sanitary Conveniences</b>					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	—	2	—

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

Investigations are made in cases of infectious disease, and arrangements made for the disinfection of houses if necessary.

### **DISINFESTATION OF HOUSES**

58 requests for assistance in freeing premises infested with vermin were received. Most of the complaints were due to cockroaches, and spraying and dusting with insecticides was found effective in all these cases.

### **OFFICES, SHOPS, AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963**

This Act came into force on August 1st and like all modern legislation, because of its complexity, requires a great deal of study and is so detailed that inspections can take very much longer to carry out than one would anticipate.

The publicity given to the Act has still not been sufficient to make every employer who should do so, register with the Local Authority, and many of the clauses and regulations are provided with ready made excuses for non-compliance.

Some matters which should be clarified are:—

1. What amount of furniture is to be allowed in the floor area allocated to each person?
2. Why should premises open to the public be exempt from over-crowding provisions? Some shops have barely enough space behind the counter for two people to pass and the floor area can be as little as 6 square feet per person.

Similarly in these days an adequate working temperature can be provided and maintained in any premises. Foodstuffs can be displayed and stored in low temperature cabinets, these also keep food clean.

By the end of the year, 49 premises had been inspected. A high proportion of these were food premises, but few complied with the Acts provisions in every respect.

One inspector is appointed under the Act.

The tables are in the form laid down in the Annual Reports Order, 1964, as follows:—

**TABLE A—REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS**

Totals	132	132	49
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Office	22	22	5
Retail Shops	92	92	31
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	—	—	—
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	17	17	12
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	1

**TABLE B—NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES**

**53**

**TABLE C—ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE**

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	376
Retail Shops	285
Wholesale departments, warehouses	—
Catering establishments open to the public	145
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	11
Total	817
Total Males	357
Total Females	460

The remainder of the tables D and E dealing with applications for exemption are nil, and table F concerning inspectors appointed has been dealt with in the text.

**SHOPS ACT, 1950, SECTIONS 38 and 72**

The provisions in these sections which were enforced previous to the Offices, Shops, and Railway Premises Act, have been repealed. A considerable number of visits were made before the new Act came into force.

**SHOPS ACT, 1950, CLOSING HOURS, ETC.**

During the year we were informed by Durham County Council that as the population was now above 20,000 this Authority must carry out the remaining sections of this Act dealing with closing hours, hours of employment of young persons, overtime, etc., and after consideration the Council decided to appoint a person to carry out rodent control and this duty as a whole time appointment.

It is too early to give any report on this arrangement as yet.

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

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Houses which were included in the slum clearance programme for 1960-65 have all been dealt with, only a small number of families remaining to be rehoused.

A further programme will be outlined for the coming five year period, and it is hoped that the new Government will clear up many of the difficulties facing Authorities like this, in trying to secure a reasonable rate of improvement of housing conditions as a whole.

The Housing Act of 1964 is now in force and its provisions are such that it is not difficult to foresee that many Local Authorities will try to evade rather than carry out its requirements. To survey the district for tenanted property suitable for improvement with standard amenities, to prove that compulsory action is reasonable, to carry out all the practical details and legal formalities, will be a whole time task for at least one officer, in all but the very smallest of areas. All these matters could take many years to settle and makes progress very slow. I feel that this Act should also have amended the standard of fitness at present in force, and given powers to Local Authorities to demolish all those houses which in their opinion are not suitable for improvement up to the full standard; such clearance could be phased to each Council's ability to rehouse the displaced persons.

One difficulty that will arise is that of settling what is normal maintenance for properties which have been improved, and this will I am sure result in many court cases.

The remainder of the Act concerning tenements and houses in multiple occupation will not seriously affect this area.

### HOUSING ACT, 1961

The Act deals mainly with houses which are occupied by more than one family, and gives powers to Local Authorities to require the provision of proper sanitary accommodation, bathing facilities, etc., for each family, and also power to limit the number of occupants.

There are no premises in this district to which the Act applies.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in this district.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Council have actively encouraged the issue of grants since December, 1954, and since then 351 applications have been considered, 32 were refused, usually on the grounds that the regulations were not being complied with, and of the remainder agreed to, 243 were discretionary and 76 were standard. Up to the year's end 253 had actually been paid.

During the year 36 applications were agreed to 15 of these were discretionary, and 21 for standard grants. One application was refused.

### Statistics for the Year

#### **Public Health Acts**

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	154
Number of visits made	...	...	...	294

#### **Under Housing Acts**

				Total since 1954
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	77
Number of visits made	...	...	...	96
Cases of overcrowding investigated	...	...	...	1
Number of new houses built and occupied during the year	...	...	...	282
Total number of visits made in connection with the above	...	...	...	390
Number of houses demolished or closed	...	...	...	7 237
Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	18 803
Number of families rehoused	...	...	...	7 236
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act after formal notices by the Local Authority	...	...	...	11
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	...	8
Houses at which other matters were remedied under the Public Health Act	...	...	...	2
Total number of defects remedied	...	...	...	72
Total number of dwellings on Rate Book at year end	...	...	...	8,327
Boldon Urban District Council houses	...	...	...	2,733
Jarrow Corporation houses	...	...	...	552
Durham County Council houses	...	...	...	22
Agricultural houses	...	...	...	88
Private houses	...	...	...	4,932

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

414 visits were made to the 124 premises in the district in which food is prepared, stored and sold. The standard of most of these premises is good. They are roughly classified as follows but certain businesses deal in one or more main lines.

Confectioners	...	7	Fresh Fish	...	...	4
...Butchers	...	16	Fish Fryers	...	...	6
Cafe	...	4	Grocers	...	...	42
Canteens and Kitchens	4		Greengrocers	...	...	8
Chemists	...	6	Licensed Clubs	...	...	4
Public Houses	...	15	Off Licenses	...	...	8

## MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

As far as can be ascertained there are about 29 milk dealers in the district. One farmer was warned after a pint of farm bottled milk was found to contain soil and debris.

## MILK SAMPLES

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1959, the Durham County Public Health Inspector submits samples for various tests and the year's results were as follows:—

Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
96	88	8

## MEAT INSPECTION

Only small quantities of meat in butchers shops have been inspected, usually at the request of the butcher, none was condemned.

## OTHER FOODS

No difficulty is encountered in securing the surrender and destruction of foodstuffs which are unfit for human consumption. Most of the tradesmen seek my advice on any food which is doubtful, and willingly surrender any which is unfit. All the businesses are retail, and it has not been necessary to examine any very large stocks of food.

## CORNED BEEF

As a result of the Typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen, all premises at which corned beef was likely to be sold were contacted. One tin was found bearing the code number of the suspected batch and it was returned to the wholesaler unopened.

## SALE OF UNFIT FOODS

Two prosecutions were taken by the Council, one for the sale of a mouldy meat pie, the retailer being fined £10 and costs, and the other for the sale of a packet of nuts which contained a piece of stone. In this case the defendant was fined £5 and costs.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and destroyed:—

- 31 lbs. Ham.
- 4 tins Lunch Tongue
- 2 tins Pork Luncheon Meat.
- 12 tins Lambs Tongues.
- 7 tins Chopped Pork.
- 1 tin Ox Tongues.
- 2 tins Jellied Veal.
- 4 tins Pork and Ham.
- 3 tins Pears.
- 37 tins Tomatoes.
- 9 tins Grapefruit.
- 3 tins Prunes.
- 1 tin Mandarin Oranges.
- 15 tins Peaches.
- 3 tins Apricots.
- 1 tin Pineapple.
- 6 lbs. Sultanas.
- 2 tins Plums.
- 47 tins Peas.
- 10 tins Baked Beans.
- 3 jars Pickled Onions.
- 1 tin Lentil Soup.
- 1 tin Salmon.
- 4 tins Minced Beef Loaf.
- 3 tins Wiltshire Sausages.
- 3 tins Beef and Vegetable Curry.
- 2 lbs. Cheshire Cheese.
- 2 tins Semolina.
- 9 tins Evaporated Milk.
- 3 pkts. Suet.
- 4 jars Bramble Jelly.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Durham County Council are the responsible Authority for the administration of the sections of the Food and Drugs Act which deals with adulteration and abstraction of substances from food. The Weights and Measures Department carry out the duties of Sampling Officers and during the year 1964, 85 were taken, of which 30 were of milk. All were found to be genuine.

## PETROLEUM ACT, 1928

17 visits were made during the year, and there are now 27 licensed premises in the district.

The Durham County Fire Prevention Department advises on the condition of every storage place, and each licensee was requested to comply with the Department's recommendations.

## SECTION F

### Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Prevalence and Control of Infectious and Other Diseases.

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The number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1964 was 215 compared with 317 during the previous year. This substantial decrease was largely accounted for by the fall in Measles notifications from 283 in 1963 to 161 in 1964. The most significant changes compared with the previous year were the decreased incidence of Respiratory Tuberculosis and the increased incidence of Whooping Cough. There were also slight increases in Pneumonia, Non-respiratory Tuberculosis and Dysentery.

#### **Measles**

The usual bi-ennial epidemic pattern was maintained and, as expected, there was a substantial decrease in the number of cases notified there being 161 cases compared with 283 during the previous year. Most of the cases notified during 1964 occurred during the last four months of the year and doubtless will be the precursor of the next bi-ennial rise.

#### **Whooping Cough**

There were 18 cases notified compared with 6 cases during the previous year and 0 in 1962. There is no doubt of the value of immunisation against this disease which is offered both by General Practitioners and Local Authority Clinics, and it is hoped that more mothers will avail themselves of this aid to the health of their children.

#### **Dysentery**

There were 12 cases of Dysentery notified during 1964 compared with 3 cases during the previous year. This remains a satisfactory low incidence in view of the fact that Sonne Dysentery to some extent is endemic in the area; no doubt many mild or sub-clinical cases are never brought to light.

#### **Food Poisoning**

It is again pleasing to record only one case of Food Poisoning. Improved standards of hygiene are evident in both catering establishments and in the domestic sphere, and it is most important that these be maintained.

#### **Poliomyelitis**

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis notified during the year. The value both to the individual and the community of immunisation cannot be too strongly emphasised. Continued propaganda is essential to enable this disease to be finally eliminated from our midst.

#### **Tuberculosis**

There were 4 cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis notified in 1964 compared with 7 cases during the previous year, with 1 reported death. This is a very satisfactory state.

There were 3 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year compared with 2 cases during 1963. In one case there was an infection of the glands of the neck, one of the skin, and one of the abdominal organs.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1964**

Diseases	All Ages										Increase or Decrease in 1964					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and Over	Age unknown	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total notified 1964	Total notified 1963	Increase or Decrease in 1964		
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	4	7	-3	
Respiratory	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	2	+1	
Tuberculosis	—	2	1	3	2	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	12	3	+9
Non-respiratory	—	—	1	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	11	-2	
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	5	+1	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	+1	
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	6	+12	
Food Poisoning	—	2	5	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	161	283	-122	
Whooping Cough	—	6	44	54	41	13	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	+1	
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-	
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-	
Total	11	51	62	58	16	3	5	1	2	6	3	1	215	317	-102	

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES — CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1964

**NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**  
**Summary for five year period 1960-1964.**

Diseases Notifiable	Population	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Purpura	Measles	Coughing	Whooping	Acute Polio-myelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery	
1960	20,810	—	—	5	9	2	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	7
1961	22,540	—	—	—	9	—	3	1	1	354	24	—	—	—	1
1962	23,280	—	—	4	23	3	—	4	—	43	—	1	—	—	5
1963	24,310	—	—	11	7	2	—	5	—	283	6	—	—	—	3
1964	25,460	—	—	9	4	3	1	6	1	161	18	—	—	—	12

## TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the incidence of new cases and of deaths from tuberculosis over the last 20 years.

Year	Population	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
		New cases	Deaths	New cases	Deaths
1944	14,650	13	5	11	2
1945	14,920	7	6	9	3
1946	15,850	19	6	10	4
1947	16,090	11	11	8	5
1948	16,310	11	4	5	3
1949	16,870	16	6	6	1
1950	17,100	20	7	8	1
1951	16,740	18	5	4	2
1952	17,150	19	2	1	—
1953	17,440	16	2	3	—
1954	17,600	16	6	3	—
1955	18,020	5	5	2	1
1956	18,390	18	3	5	1
1957	18,960	14	2	2	—
1958	19,540	9	1	2	—
1959	20,230	13	2	2	—
1960	20,810	9	—	2	1
1961	22,540	9	1	—	—
1962	23,280	23	1	3	—
1963	24,310	7	—	2	—
1964	25,460	4	1	3	—

The death was that of a male person of over 65 years of age.



F. & A. Tolson Ltd., Bede Industrial Estate, Jarrow.